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MINUTES

OF THE

1827

TWENTIETH SESSION

OF THE

American Convention

FOR PROMOTING THE

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY,

AND IMPROVING

THE CONDITION OF THE AFRICAN RACE.

CONVENED AT PHILADELPHIA,

ON THE SECOND OF OCTOBER, 1827

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MINUTES.

COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER,
Philadelphia, Oct. 2, 1827.

Agreeably to notification, the following Delegates to compose the 20th biennial session of the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. met.

From New York, Mahlon Day.

Pennsylvania,

Wm. Rawle,	D. Paul Brown,
Jonas Preston,	Joseph P. Norris, Jr.
Joseph M. Paul,	Edwin P. AtLee,
Thomas Shipley,	Joseph Parker,
James Mott,	Jesse W. Newport.

Western Pennsylvania, David Hilles.

Maryland, David Brown.

Delaware, Lea Pusey.

Virginia, Robert Bond.

The number of Delegates prescribed by the Constitution of the Convention, to form a quorum, being present, Wm. Rawle, Esq. was called to the *Chair*, and E. P. AtLee acted as *Secretary*.

On motion, Thomas Shipley and Joseph Parker were appointed tellers for an election of Officers of the Convention for two years.

After balloting, the tellers reported the following as the result of the election, viz.

President, William Rawle, Esq. L. L. D.
Vice President, Daniel Raymond, Esq.
Secretaries, E. P. AtLee, M. D. Mahlon Day.
Treasurer, Jonas Preston, M. D.

A communication from the New York Manumission Society

was read: also, one from the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. one from the Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania: one from the Delaware Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. one from the Free Labor Society of Wilmington: one from the Benevolent Society of Alexandria: and one from Western Pennsylvania: from which, it appears that the following are the Delegates from the several Abolition, Manumission, and Free Produce Societies in the United States, now received.

New York Manumission Society.

Wm. L. Stone, Esq. — Harvey Shotwell,
Aaron Leggett, — Evan Lewis.
Mahlon Day,

Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c.

William Rawle, Esq. — Isaac Barton,
Jonas Preston, M. D. — James Mott,
Jos. M. Paul, — Joseph P. Norris, Jr. Esq.
Benjamin Tucker, — D. P. Brown, Esq.
Thomas Shipley, — E. P. AtLee, M. D.

Western Pennsylvania Convention of Delegates of Abolition and Manumission Societies,

David Hilles, Rev. Charles Wheeler, John Graham.

Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania,

Joseph Parrish, M. D. Joseph Parker, Esq. & Jesse W. Newport.

Delaware Free Labor Society of Wilmington,

Benjamin Webb, and Isaac Pierce.

Virginia Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery,

Noble S. Braden, — Edward Walker,
Benjamin F. Taylor, — Elisha Fawcett.
Robert Bond,

On motion, the following Delegates were appointed a Committee of Arrangement to prepare the proper business of this Convention, and report to the next sitting—

Thomas Shipley, — Jonas Preston,
Lea Pusey, — David Brown.
Robert Bond,

The following resolution, offered by Jonas Preston, was read and adopted:

Resolved, That our fellow citizens, friendly to the abolition of slavery, may be admitted to attend the several sittings of this Convention.

On motion, adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

October 8, 10 *o'clock, A. M.*

Convention met. *Present*,

Messrs. Day,	D. P. Brown,
Leggett,	AtLee,
Rawle,	Hilles,
Preston,	Peirce,
Tucker,	Pusey,
Shipley,	Parker,
Barton,	Newport,
Mott,	Bond.

The following delegates also appeared, and tooktheir seats, viz:

From Maryland,

Daniel Raymond, Esq. William Kesley, Benjamin Lundy.

Delaware, Samuel S. Grubb, Esq.

District of Columbia, J. C. Dawes, R. H. Neal.

Ohio, David Scholfield.

The following communications were received and read—one from the Salem Abolition and Colonization Society of Columbiana County, Ohio: one from the Columbiana Abolition Society of Ohio: one from the African Slave Abolition Society of Washington, D. C. one from the Anti-Slavery Convention of Maryland: and one from the Virginia Convention.

Agreeably to the resolution adopted last session, the following gentlemen were, after tellers were appointed and an election had. declared to be chosen as Counsellors to the Convention:

Peter A. Jay, Esq. of New York.

Horace Binney, Esq. L. L. D. of Philadelphia.

Daniel Raymond, Esq. of Baltimore.

The minutes of the Acting Committee of the Convention, were read and accepted.

The report, in part, as follows, of the Committee of Arrangement, was produced, accepted and ordered to lie on the table for the present.

To the American Convention.

The Committee of Arrangement respectfully report in part, that on examining the minutes of the adjourned session, they find the following items of unfinished business.

1st. Page 42 of the Minutes—two resolutions referred to this Convention, in the following words:

Resolved, That this Convention would highly approve of the appropriation of an adequate portion of the revenue of the United States, for the voluntary removal of such slaves as may hereafter be emancipated, to any country, which they may select for their future residence.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draft a memorial to Congress, expressive of the sentiments contained in the foregoing resolution.

2d. Page 43.—The following resolution proposed by Isaac Barton, and referred to a Committee consisting of Solomon Temple, Thomas Earle, Jonas Preston, W. L. Stone, and W. Gibbons.—

Resolved, That a Committee of five members be appointed to prepare Rules for the government of the deliberations of this Convention, and report to its next session.

3d. Page 48.—Amendments of the Constitution.

On a careful examination of the several addresses to this Convention, and of the business which ought to claim its attention at the present session, your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to draft an address to the Legislatures of the non-slaveholding States, praying them to use their influence with their Representatives in Congress, to promote the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia.

2. *Resolved*, That this Convention consider the formation of Anti-Slavery Associations, particularly in the slave holding States, as a most efficient means to promote the abolition of slavery; and do recommend the subject to the particular attention of the acting Committee.

3. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of submitting to the consideration of their counsel the following question: Can a resident of the United States, consistently with the Constitution, be denied the trial by jury, if claimed as a fugitive slave?

4. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to draft an address to the citizens of the United States, on the importance of educating the children of indigent free persons of Color.

5. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to frame an address to Congress on the subject of preventing the further introduction of slaves into the territory of Florida.

6. *Resolved*, That be a Committee to consider of and report to this Convention, what measures are necessary to be taken to promote the abolition of the domestic slave trade, and to protect free persons of color from being kidnapped; and whether any regulation might be adopted to prevent their being carried off in steam boats, stages, and coasting vessels.

7. *Resolved*, That the subject of free and slave labor, and the propriety of further encouraging the use of productions not contaminated by slavery, be referred to a Committee.

8. *Resolved*, That the subject of preparing and proposing a plan for the gradual abolition of slavery, be considered by the Convention in Committee of the whole.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. SHIPLEY, *Chairman.*

10 mo. 3d, 1827.

On motion of Wm. Kesley, that the first item of the report of said Committee be now considered—it was carried.

A motion having been made, that a Committee be appointed to draft a memorial to Congress, in accordance with the resolution attached to the first item of the report of the Committee of Arrangement, and the subject having been partially discussed,

It was ordered to lie on the table for the present.

No report having been made by the Committee chosen at the last session to perform the duties brought forward in the second item of the report of the Committee of Arrangement;

On motion of Robert Bond, the following were chosen a Committee to frame By-Laws, Rules, &c. for the government of this Convention, and report to this session—Robert Bond, Isaac Barton, and James Mott.

The third item of the report being considered,

On motion of D. Raymond, that the resolution offered by John Allen, at the last session, be indefinitely postponed, it was carried.

The resolution of T. Earle, offered last session, was postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of T. Shipley, that an addition be made to the Committee of Arrangement, it was adopted, and Daniel Raymond, David Scholfield, and Jesse W. Newport were appointed.

The fourth item of the report of the Committee of Arrangement being brought up,

It was moved that the first part be adopted, and after some discussion, deferred till this afternoon.

Adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

3 o'clock, P. M.

Convention met. D. Raymond, V. P. in the Chair. *Present*—Messrs. Leggett, Day, Preston, Paul, Tucker, Shipley, Barton, Mott, AtLee, Hilles, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Grubb, Raymond, Kesley, Lundy, Scholfield, Dawes, Neal.

A communication from Greensboro', North Carolina, was received and read, and submitted, with the rest of the communications to this Convention, to the Committee of Arrangement.

The first resolution offered by the Committee of Arrangement, viz.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draft an address to the Legislatures of the non-slaveholding States, praying them to use their influence with their Representatives in Congress to promote the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—being considered, it was, on motion, indefinitely postponed.

The second resolution of the Committee of Arrangement, viz.

Resolved, That this Convention consider the formation of Anti-Slavery Associations, particularly in the slaveholding States, as a most efficient means to promote the abolition of slavery, and do recommend the subject to the particular attention of the Acting Committee,—being considered, was adopted.

The third resolution of the Committee, viz.—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of submitting to their counsel, the following question, viz. "Can a resident of the United States, consistently with the Constitution, be denied the trial by jury, if claimed as a fugitive slave?"—was adopted, and the following Committee appointed, viz. Thos. Shipley, William Kesley, James Mott, and Robert Bond.

The fourth resolution of Committee viz:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to draft an address to the citizens of the United States, on the importance of educating the children of indigent free persons of color—was adopted, and the following is the committee. Lea Pusey, Mahlon Day, Isaac Barton.

The consideration of the 5th resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement was, on motion, deferred until to-morrow.

The following resolution, offered by B. Lundy, was adopted.—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to prepare an address to the several Abolition and Manumission Societies in the United States, requesting them to have memorials signed by as many of the citizens of their vicinity as practicable, and forwarded to Congress, praying the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—and the following is the Committee—Benjamin Lundy, D. P. Brown, Samuel S. Grubb, Joseph Parker, Jos. C. Dawes.

The following resolution, offered by William Kesley, was read:

Resolved, That the friends of abolition be, and they are hereby requested, to memorialize the Legislatures of their respective states, calling upon them to request the Representatives and Senators of their several states, in Congress, to endeavor to obtain the passage of an act, declaring that, after a given date, not far distant, all persons born in the District of Columbia, shall be free at a certain age.—Laid on the table.

On motion of B. Tucker, That the Resolution in conclusion of the second paragraph, of the first item, reported by the Committee of Arrangement as unfinished business, and presented by T. Earle, at the last session of Convention, viz:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to draft a memorial

to Congress, expressive of the sentiments contained in the foregoing resolution,—be indefinitely postponed. It was carried.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

October 4th, 10 *o'clock*, A. M.

Convention met. Wm. Rawle, Esq. President, in the Chair.

Present, Messrs. Day, Rawle, Preston, Paul, Shipley, Barton, Mott, J. P. Norris, Jun. D. P. Brown, AtLee, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Grubb, Raymond, Kesley, Lundy, D. Brown, Scholfield, Dawes, and Neal.

The following resolution was offered by B. Lundy:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to make enquiry and report to the next session, what experiments have been heretofore made, and are now making, on the American Continent and Islands, in relation to the cultivation of the products of cotton, rice, sugar, tobacco, &c. by free labor, or by slaves whose condition has been so meliorated as to approach the condition of freemen, shewing what is the relative advantages between free and slave labor. Which being adopted,—Benjamin Lundy, Thomas Shipley, Joseph Parker, William Kesley, and David Scholfield, were constituted such Committee.

The Committee appointed to prepare By-Laws, Rules, &c. for the government of the Convention, made their report, which being read, was adopted, as follows:—

To the American Convention, &c.

The committee, appointed to prepare rules for the government of the Convention, submit the following for consideration.

On behalf of the committee,

JAMES MOTT.

10*th Mo.* 4*th*, 1827.

RULES, &c.

1. As soon as a quorum of members appear, the President shall take his seat, and call to order: after which no member shall depart without leave of the President.

He shall be judge of order, and his decisions thereon shall be

immediately submitted to, unless two members require an appeal to Convention; which shall be decided without debate.

He shall name all Committees, unless Convention otherwise determine.

2. It shall be the duty of the Secretaries to furnish the Chairman of every Committee with a copy of the Resolution under which they are appointed.

3. After the roll has been called, the order of the business shall be as follows:

The minutes of the last preceding meeting shall be read, and if necessary corrected, as to matters of mistake or form.

Reports of Committees shall be called for; after which any busines may be proceeded on, at the pleasure of the Convention.

4. Every member presenting a paper to the Chair, shall first state its general purport: and every member who shall make a motion, shall rise and address the Chair.

5. No debate shall be entered into on any motion, unless that motion be seconded, and stated from the Chair; and all motions shall, if requested by two members, or by the President, be reduced to writing.

No member shall speak more than twice upon any one question, without leave of the Convention, and when he does speak shall rise and address the President.

6. While a subject is under consideration, no motion shall be made, except to amend, divide, commit, or postpone it; but a motion to adjourn, shall always be in order, and shall be decided without debate.

7. Upon the reading of a Report, Resolution, or other paper, unless upon motion otherwise ordered, it shall, as matter of course, lie on the table.

8. Upon motion, seconded and carried, Convention may resolve itself into a Committee of the whole; when the President, having first appointed a Chairman, shall leave the Chair, and shall possess the same privileges as any other member. In such Committees, the latter clause of the fifth rule, which prohibits a member from speaking more than twice upon any one question, shall be dispensed with.

9. Every member on a Committee shall attend the call of the Chairman, who shall be the person first named on the Committee.

10. No motion for re-consideration shall be permitted, unless made and seconded by members who were in the majority on the original question; nor then, unless made at the same meeting as the decision, or at the next meeting after it.

11. The yeas and nays shall be entered on the Minutes, at the request of any two members.

12. No rule of Convention shall at any time be dispensed with, unless two-thirds of the members present concur.

The Committee of arrangement, &c. made the following final report.

To the American Convention &c.

The Committee of Arrangement,

Report in conclusion, that on examining the addresses last submitted to them, they find the following subjects require the attention of the Convention, and recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

9th. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to consider of, and report, whether any measures ought now to be adopted, to meliorate the condition of the slave population, particularly in respect to the relation of husband and wife, and the separation of near connexions, by sale.

10th. *Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to examine and report to the next session, what amendments are necessary in the laws of the several states, more effectually to protect the rights of free persons of color, particularly to render their testimony admissible in courts of justice.

On behalf of the Committee,

THOMAS SHIPLEY, *Chairman.*

10 mo. 4th, 1827.

The fifth resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, postponed until to-day, being brought forward again, was largely discussed; but a motion being made for postponing the subject for further consideration this afternoon—and having carried,

Adjourned to 3 o'clock P. M.

3 o'clock P. M.

Convention met. William Rawle, Esq. President, in the Chair.

Present, Messrs. Day, Rawle, Preston, Paul, Tucker, Shipley, Barton, Mott, J. P. Norris, Jr. D. P. Brown, AtLee, Hilles, Webb, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Kesley, Lundy, Scholfield, Dawes, and Neal.

The following preamble and resolution, offered by D. P. Brown, was read and adopted,—viz.

Whereas, Geo. M. Stroud, Esq. of the City of Philadelphia, has issued proposals, to publish a work entitled, "A sketch of the laws which relate to slavery, in the several States of the United States of America,—and

Whereas, a work of this kind has long been a desideratum with the societies represented in this Convention,—Therefore,

Resolved, That the acting Committee be authorized to subscribe on the part of this Convention for fifty copies of that work, when it shall be completed—provided, it shall meet their approbation.

The fifth resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, being again considered and discussed, was adopted; and the following Committee was appointed to fulfil its object—Wm. Rawle, Benj. Webb, D. Paul Brown, Joseph C. Dawes, and Robert Bond.

The sixth resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, was read, considered, and adopted: And the following Committee was appointed to attend the duties therein specified, viz. David Scholfield, Mahlon Day, Isaac Pierce, Benj. Tucker, and Jesse W. Newport.

The following resolution was offered by T. Shipley; and being read, was adopted, viz.

Whereas, a periodical work, entitled the African Observer, has been for some time published in this city, edited by Enoch Lewis: And whereas, a weekly newspaper, entitled Freedom's Journal, edited by John B. Russwurm, a person of color, has been for some time published in the city of New York: And whereas, both these works from their intrinsic merits, in aiding the cause of the injured Africans, deserve the support and encouragement of this Convention: Therefore,

Resolved, That the acting Committee be authorized to sub-

scribe for five copies of the African Observer, and two copies of Freedom's Journal: and that they give them such circulation as they may think best.

Joseph Parker offered the following:—

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed, to prepare a memorial to the Congress of the United States, praying that body to adopt measures for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—Which was adopted, and the following Committee appointed to prepare such a memorial, viz. Joseph Parker, Lea Pusey, and William Kesley.

The resolution of William Kesley, offered yesterday afternoon, and laid on the table, being again brought forward, was, on motion, postponed.

On motion, the following Committee was appointed to prepare an Address to the several Abolition, Manumission, Anti-Slavery, &c. Societies, in the United States, viz. Thomas Shipley, Benjamin Webb, and Benjamin Tucker.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

October 5th, 10 o'clock, P. M.

Convention met, the President, William Rawle, Esq. in the chair.

Present, Messrs. Day, Rawle, Preston, Paul, Shipley, Mott, D. P. Brown, AtLee, Hilles, Webb, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Garrett, Grubb, Raymond, Kesley, Lundy, Scholfield, Dawes, and Neal.

The Committee appointed to draft a Memorial to Congress, praying that body to pass an act abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, made report: which was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Robert Bond having offered the following resolution, viz.—

Resolved, That a Committee be now appointed to examine and settle the Treasurer's accounts, and report what sums may be necessary, to be raised for the current expences of the Convention, and to apportion it on the several Societies represented—

M. Day, T. Shipley, D. Hilles, J. Pierce, J. Parker, R. Bond, S. S. Grubb, W. Kesley, D. Scholfield, and J. C. Dawes, were appointed to the services therein mentioned.

The subjoined resolution, offered by Lea Pusey, was read and adopted, viz.

Resolved, That the Acting Committee be, and they are hereby directed, to continue the subscription of this Convention to the work entitled the "Genius of Universal Emancipation," edited by Benjamin Lundy, for the additional term of two years, to be paid for annually.

The Committee appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress, praying that body to pass an Act to prevent the further introduction of slaves into Florida, reported a draught of one, which being read, a motion was made to include the Territory of Arkansas. The subject having been somewhat discussed, it was moved, seconded, and decided, that this Convention go into Committee of the Whole, for a more particular examination of it; and Dr. Jonas Preston was chosen Chairman.

The Committee of the Whole having risen, reported the memorial without amendment.

On motion of James Mott, the memorial was re-committed to the Committee; and James Mott and William Kesley were added to said Committee.

The following resolution, presented by T. Shipley, was read and adopted:

Resolved, That the Acting Committee be directed to have 250 copies of the Constitution of the Convention, as amended, with the By-laws, printed for the use of the Convention; and that they also have printed 750 copies of the Minutes of the present session, and distributed to the several Anti-Slavery Societies in the United States.

The following Preamble and Resolution were offered by Benjamin Lundy, and read—viz.

Whereas, a large number of Anti-Slavery Societies have recently been organized in the slave holding states of this Union, many of them very far south and west of Philadelphia; and a disposition having been manifested among them to unite with the societies which compose this Convention, several of them being now represented herein;—and seeing it is all-important that societies of this description, in every portion of our country, should

co-operate in their labors, for the accomplishment of the great object which they severally have in view: Therefore,

Resolved, That the first Section of the second Article of this Convention be stricken out, and the following inserted in lieu thereof, viz.

The Convention shall meet annually, at the city of Washington, in the month of —provided, however, that when a majority of the members may deem it expedient to adjourn to some other place, they shall be empowered so to do, once in every two years.—It may also be specially convened, as is herein-after provided.

On motion, adjourned to 3½ o'clock, P. M.

3½ *o'clock, P. M.*

Convention met, D. Raymond, Esq. Vice President, in the Chair.

Present, Messrs. Day, Preston, Paul, Tucker, Barton, Mott, AtLee, Hilles, Webb, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Grubb, Raymond, Kesley, Lundy, D. Brown, Scholfield, and Dawes.

The following gentlemen were appointed the Acting Committee, to transact the business of this Convention in its recess, viz. James Mott, Thomas Shipley, Isaac Barton, E. P. AtLee, Benjamin Tucker, Mahlon Day, Lea Pusey, Sam. S. Grubb, William Kesley, Benjamin Lundy, Daniel Raymond, Joseph Parker, Robert Bond, J. W. Newport, Jonas Preston.

The following resolution for an amendment to the Constitution, was presented by James Mott, viz.

Resolved, That Sec. 1st, of Art. 2d, of this Constitution be so amended as to read thus:

ART. II. *Sec.* 1. This Convention shall meet on the 1st Wednesday of December, at Philadelphia, or at such other place as may be designated by the preceding session of the Convention.

On motion, the several amendments proposed to the Constitution, during this session and the last, were referred to the following Committee for consideration, to report thereon to-morrow morning, viz. Jonas Preston, James Mott, Benjamin Lundy, Joseph C. Dawes, and Robert Bond.

The Committee appointed to draft an Address to the citizens of the United States, on the importance of educating the children of indigent free persons of color, presented the same, which being read, was ordered to lie on the table.

The memorial to Congress, on the subject of abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia, being again read, and considered, was adopted.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the memorials to Congress, signed by the President and Secretary, be delivered to the Acting Committee, and by them forwarded to both Houses of Congress.

The 7th Resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, was on motion referred to the Committee appointed on the 4th inst. "To make enquiry and report to the next session what experiments, have been heretofore made, and are now making, on the American Continent and Islands, in relation to the cultivation of the products of cotton, rice, sugar, tobacco, &c. by free labor, or by slaves whose condition has been so meliorated as to approach the condition of free men, shewing what is the relative advantages between free and slave labor.

The 8th Resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, was, on motion, recommended to the particular consideration of Convention at the next session.

The 9th Resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, was also referred to the consideration of next session.

The 10th Resolution, offered by the Committee of Arrangement, was referred to the Acting Committee, whose duty it shall be to report thereon to the next session.

The following Article was adopted, and ordered to be added to the By-Laws, &c. for the government of the Convnntion, viz.

All memorials, and public addresses shall be first read throughout, and then if required by two members, they shall be read by paragraphs, previous to their adoption.

The following Resolution, offered by S. S. Grubb, was read, and referred to the Committee on Amendments, viz.

Resolved, That when this Convention do adjourn, it adjourn to meet in the city of Baltimore, on the day of 1828.

The Resolution of William Kesley, offered on the afternoon of the 3d inst. being again considered, was, on motion, adopted.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning, at 9 o'clock.

October 6, 9 *o'clock*, *A. M.*

Convention met, the President in the Chair.

Present, Messrs. Day, Rawle, Preston, Shipley, Barton, Mott, Brown, AtLee, Hilles, Webb, Pierce, Pusey, Parker, Newport, Bond, Raymond, Lundy, Scholfield, and Dawes.

The Address to the citizens of the United States, on the subject of the instruction of the children of indigent free persons of color, being read, and considered by paragraphs, was adopted, as follows:

The American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. to the citizens of the United States.

Among the various subjects which have obtained our attention at this time, that of the education of indigent colored children is considered one of primary importance. When we look around upon the one hand, and see the incalculable advantages which have accrued to the children of white persons in limited circumstances, from the instruction bestowed upon them by judicious benevolent provisions; and upon the other, to observe the deplorable effects of the want of instruction, in the case of the neglected children of colored parents, we feel a conviction that the period has arrived, when the Abolitionist and the Philanthropist ought to renew and redouble their efforts to remove the unpleasant contrast; and it is with much satisfaction we have learned that in some parts of our country, the attention of benevolent individuals, and charitable institutions, has been attracted to this subject, and the success which attended their endeavors, furnishes a most powerful inducement to follow up so praiseworthy an undertaking by the united efforts of all those who are one in sentiment with us, in improving the condition of the African race. We trust it will be readily conceded, that whatever measures have the effect of enlightening any portion of the community, are a public good; and upon this maxim, the education of the children of what are

called the lower classes, has often been recommended with a laudable zeal, by statesmen eminent for their wisdom and foresight; from hence, and the acts of some of the State Legislatures, much has been done to enlighten the minds of indigent children; unhappily, in some parts of our country, colored children are deprived of the benefits of education by ungenerous constructions of existing laws; in some, by the absence of all legal provision for their instruction, and in others by the existence of legal prohibitions: thus leaving a wide field open for the benevolent operations of those who feel an interest in raising the degraded African from a state of ignorance which is a reproach to the age and country in which we live.

As regards the capacity of colored children to acquire knowledge, when the opportunity is afforded them, many facts might be collected to shew that they are by no means deficient in intellect; that the minds of many of them are of quick perception, and capable of arriving at considerable degrees of eminence in scientific research; in short, that nothing but the means of instruction are wanting to the poor colored child, to elevate him to that station in society which he is entitled to upon every principle of justice and humanity; which his and our Creator, no doubt, designed he should occupy, and from which he is debarred by the cruel hand of injustice and oppression.

If these views are correct, it is much to be lamented that instruction has been so long withheld from thousands of these objects of pity, and our efforts ought to be so directed as to repair or remove the evil. Under these impressions, we earnestly recommend to the friends of emancipation and equal rights, that they give to this subject the solemn consideration which its importance so loudly demands, and adopt such measures as may appear best calculated to dissipate the cloud of ignorance by which the present colored generation is enveloped, and succeeding ones threatened. If those measures are pursued with a zeal worthy of such a cause, we trust your labors will be crowned with success, and the benevolent heart will expect no richer reward.

The Committee appointed to draft an address to the several Abolition, Manumission, &c. Societies in the United States—

reported an essay, which was read, considered by paragraphs, and adopted, as follows:—

To the various Societies instituted to promote the Abolition of Slavery in the United States, or to protect the rights and improve the condition of the People of Color.

The American Convention of delegates from Societies, associated in various parts of our country, to promote the abolition of slavery and improve the condition of the African race, convened in Philadelphia, having harmoniously transacted its important concerns, address you at this time with increased interest for the success of the cause they have espoused; firmly relying on the Divine Being for a blessing on their feeble efforts to promote the cause of justice and mercy.

The communications forwarded to the Convention at this time, fully evince that the cause of emancipation continues to advance, and that even in the strong holds of slavery the friends of the oppressed slave are fast increasing in numbers. Our fellow citizens of the south and west are becoming more and more awakened to a sense of the evil, injustice, and impolicy of slavery; and we firmly trust that those who have engaged in the benevolent work of "restoring liberty to the captive, and to let the oppressed go free," will not look back with discouragement at the long period this cruelty has prevailed, but continue to press forward with increased energy to the goal they have set before them, the complete and final abolition of slavery within the United States. To promote this desirable object we know of no measures more efficient than the formation of anti-slavery associations, particularly in situations where the evils of slavery prevail; for experience has fully proved that a combination of effort has often effected that which individual exertion has attempted in vain. The dissemination of useful works and tracts on the subject of slavery, cannot but have a powerful effect in enlightening the public mind on this awfully interesting subject. The Convention would particularly recommend the following works to your special attention—viz: Clarkson's Abolition of the Slave Trade, abridged by Evan Lewis; Clarkson's Thoughts on Slavery; Laws of the State of Pennsylvania, passed 1780; Tract on Slavery, pub-

lished by the Tract Association of Friends in Philadelphia; Hodgson's Letter to J. B. Say, on the comparative productiveness of Free and Slave Labor; and a work now preparing for publication in this city, entitled, A Sketch of the Laws in relation to Slavery in the United States, by George M. Stroud. They also recommend that each Anti-Slavery Society subscribe, and promote subscriptions among their members and others, for the Genius of Universal Emancipation, edited by Benjamin Lundy, of Baltimore; and to the African Observer, a periodical work published in Philadelphia, by Enoch Lewis; and the Freedom's Journal, a weekly paper published at New York, by John B. Russwurm, a person of color. All these works we believe are well conducted, and will be powerful aids to the cause of liberty and justice.

As an incipient step to the abolition of slavery, we earnestly recommend that immediate application be made to the Legislatures of states where slavery exists, to prohibit the sale of slaves out of the state. The traffic which is thus carried on from state to state, is fruitful of evil consequences, not only depraving the minds of those engaged in it, but producing the most cruel separations of near connexions, and depriving its victims of almost every incentive to conjugal fidelity or correctness of conduct. Perhaps next in importance in meliorating the condition of the slaves, is the adoption of regulations for their religious instruction, and the education of their children.

The condition of the free people of color in the United States, has claimed our attention, and we earnestly recommend to the several societies, not only to use their endeavors to protect them in their just rights, but to use every means in their power to elevate them in the scale of society, by affording them and their children the means of literary instruction. And as the first day of the week is too frequently spent by them in dissipation, we would suggest the formation of associations wherever practicable, for the establishment of first day or Sunday schools for their benefit, as well as schools on the other days of the week. The degraded condition of this class of men ought to call forth our regret and sympathy; being precluded from pursuing the lucrative employments of life, it is much to be desired that more of

them than have heretofore been permitted may be instructed in handicraft trades, and employed in manufactures.

You will observe, by our minutes, that the Convention has again addressed Congress, on the important subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and the restriction of the further introduction of slaves into the Territory of Florida; and we hope our application will be supported by addresses, from other bodies of our constituents. The Convention believes that if the advocates of freedom persevere in endeavoring to enlighten the public mind on this all important subject, that the time is not far distant when a triumph will be obtained over the strong prejudice and delusion which has so long continued, and the cause of justice and humanity will finally prevail.

The Convention fervently desires that all who have put their hands to this great work may really deserve the epithet of "Saints," which in irony has been reproachfully cast upon them; and by their energy, prudence, and moderation, convince their opponents they have been mistaken in their characters and conduct. And we confidently hope that the blessing of that Almighty Being, who equally regards the bond and the free, will crown your righteous labors with success.

The Committee appointed to prepare an address to the various Anti-Slavery Societies in the United States, requesting them to memorialize Congress on the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, reported an essay, which was read, considered, and adopted, as follows:—

To the various Anti-Slavery Societies in the United States.

The American Convention, for promoting the abolition of slavery, and improving the condition of the African race, feeling desirous to encourage every measure that may have a tendency to aid this deeply injured people, and to relieve our country from the many evils inseparably connected with the system of individual oppression, take the liberty to address you upon the present occasion.—And in the performance of this task, we are particularly solicitous to draw your attention to the subject of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia—a subject

which we view as highly important, especially at the present moment, and deserving your most serious consideration.

When we reflect that the government of this District emanates from the Congress of the United States—that the power to regulate its political and municipal concerns is solely vested in that body—that the people in every State must share the honor or opprobium attending the course of conduct pursued by the authorities in the administration of its local government,—and that the whole Union must be measurably responsible for the consequences resulting therefrom—when we take this view of the subject, we ought not for a moment to hesitate in appealing to the friends of humanity in every section of the country, and urging them to use all lawful and just means, within their reach, to limit, and finally to eradicate the demoralizing and corrupting system of slavery, which is yet upheld and tolerated there.

We will not enter into a minute detail of the many advantages that would result to the nation, either morally or politically, from the abolition of slavery in the District aforesaid.—But we feel it an imperious duty to state, that in our opinion it would be attended with the most salutary effects on other portions of the Union, the *influence* of which would be incalculable. Under the present regulations, that distinguished spot on which is erected the sacred Fane of republican Freedom, is not only polluted by the galling shackle and the iron rod of oppression, but is, absolutely, converted into a great depository for the purchase and sale of human beings. The demoralizing effects which this must produce on the minds of many who become familiarized with it, and the odium which it attaches to us, in the estimation of enlightened foreigners, many of whom are constant witnesses thereof, must inevitably sap the foundation of our free institutions, and degrade our national character in the eyes of the world. This, we conceive, (to say nothing of the injustice of slavery and its concomitants,) should be a sufficient incentive to action—a sufficient inducement to labor in the holy cause of emancipation.

We are aware that it has been asserted, even on the floor of Congress, that we should wait until the people of that District themselves demand the abolition of the system of slavery. This doctrine we conceive to be fallacious. *The people there are*

not exclusively responsible for the national disgrace and criminality attending it. The United States' government, and of course. the people in every section of the Union, must bear the odium and meet the consequences:—and if so, it follows, that they have a perfect right to avert the same, by such just and legal means as their wisdom may point out, and their judgment select. But a portion of the people of that District *are* now demanding the eradication of the evil in question. Societies for the abolition of slavery have been organized among them; and they have protested against the continuance of the cruel and disgraceful practice. Let, then, the voice of their brethren elsewhere. be heard in unison with theirs. Let a strong appeal be made to the justice of the nation, that the constituted authorities may be induced to take up the subject, and bestow upon it that care which its importance imperiously requires.

To facilitate the accomplishment of this purpose, we would advise and recommend, that petitions and memorials be circulated by all the anti-slavery societies in each of the States and territories, for the signature of the citizens at large, and that they be forwarded to Congress by the Representatives, with instructions to lay them before that body, at an early day.

The Committee appointed to consider on and report what measures, &c. made the following report.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c.

The Committee appointed "to consider of and report what measures are necessary to be taken to promote the Abolition of the Domestic Slave Trade, and to protect free persons of color from being kidnapped, and whether any regulations might be adopted to prevent their being carried off in steam boats, stages, and coasting vessels," Report, that although in their opinion the intimate connexion existing between the Domestic Slave Trade, and the system of slavery generally, precludes the expectation of applying a very efficient check to the one, except by a reduction of the other, yet they indulge the hope that the united influence of the several Abolition and Anti-Slavery Societies throughout the

Union, directed to memorializing Congress, might procure some wholesome restraint upon a traffick fraught with such aggravated evil, and productive of such complicated misery.

In relation to the other subject submitted to them, viz. "the protection of free persons of color against kidnappers," the Committee are of opinion that the existing laws appear to be amply sufficient, if properly executed. They have, therefore, no other measures to recommend than the less obtrusive, but persevering exertions, of the several associations now formed, and which may be hereafter instituted, in the different sections of our country.

On behalf of the Committee,

DAVID SCHOLFIELD, *Chairman.*

The Report was accepted.

The committee appointed to examine the Treasurer's accounts; and to report what sums may be necessary to be raised for the current expenses of the Convention; and to apportion it on the several societies represented, submitted the following:

To the American Convention.

We have examined the accounts of the Treasurer, and find them correct; and that there is a balance in his hands of $53 70. On consideration of the exigencies of the Convention, and the small sum in the treasury, we recommend, that the several societies be requested to furnish the following sums, viz.

New York	$50 00
Pennsylvania	50 00
Western Pennsylvania	10 00
Delaware	25 00
Maryland	25 00
Ohio	10 00
Virginia	10 00

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

MAHLON DAY, *Chairman.*

DR. AMERICAN CONVENTION, &c. IN ACCOUNT WITH JONAS PRESTON, TREASURER, CR.

1825.				1825.			
12th. Mo. 9th,	Paid balance due Abraham L. Pennock, late Treasurer.	$15	29	11th. Mo. 19th,	Received 4 dividends of $20 each, on 8 shares Philadelphia Bank stock.	$80	00
12th,	—— Benjamin Lundy,	10		1826.			
1826.				9th. Mo.	Received of Henry Troth, treasurer of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, amount of two drafts, $30 and $40,	70	00
1st. Mo. 17th,	—— Atkinson, & Alexander,	87	75	14th,			
11th. Mo.				1827.			
10th,	—— Benjamin Luny,	10		10th. Mo.	Received 3 dividends, of $20		
12th. Mo.				5th.	each, 2 payable in 1826 and 1		
20th,	—— S. Eckstein,	27			in 1827,	60	00
1827.							
2d. Mo. 10th,	—— Benjamin Lundy,	43					
7th. Mo. 6th,	—— E. P. AtLee,	2	76				
16th,	—— Atkinson, & Alexander,	10	50				
	Balance due in the Treasury,	53	70				
		$210	00			$ 210	00

Certificates for eight shares of stock in the Philadelphia Bank, held in the name of Thomas P. Cope, former Treasurer of the Convention, are now in the hands of the present Treasurer.

E. E.

JONAS PRESTON.

Examined and approved—On behalf of the Committee,

THOMAS SHIPLEY, JOSEPH PARKER.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the respective Associations are requested to forward the quotas above stated, as soon as convenient.

The committee on Amendments, reported as follows:

The committee to whom was referred the several resolutions relative to the amendments of the Constitution of the American Convention, and relative to the adjournment of this session, Report,

That in their opinion the following amendments should be made to the Constitution, viz. That section 1st of article 2nd, be amended by striking out "*Philadelphia,*" and introducing in place thereof *Washington, D. C.* And striking out "*first,*" and introducing *second;* and making "*October*" read *December.* So that the article will read thus—

The Convention shall meet biennially, in the city of Washington, D. C. on the second Tuesday in December. It may adjourn from time to time, to such place as it may deem proper, and may be specially convened, as is hereinafter provided.

The committee also recommend the following resolution—

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourn, it do adjourn to meet in the city of Baltimore, on the first Monday of November, 1828.

On behalf of Committee,

JONAS PRESTON, *Chairman.*

Which report and resolution were adopted.

The following resolutions were read and adopted—

1. By David Brown.—

Resolved, That the acting committee be authorized to open a correspondence with the "African Institution," and other anti-slavery societies in Great Britain, and invite an exchange of information, relative to the important and mutual objects contemplated by our respective institutions.

2. By Robert Bond.—

Resolved, That the Acting Committee be authorized when the funds may permit, to obtain copies of the best *works* and *tracts* on slavery and slave labor, for the use of this Convention.

3. By Jesse W. Newport.—

Resolved, That the Treasurer be directed to place in the

archives of the Convention, 5 copies of the minutes of the present and each succeeding session, and at least one copy of each work which shall be subscribed for by this Convention.

4. By Joseph C. Dawes.—

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to the friends of emancipation, the instruction of colored children, by the establishing of Sabbath schools, or any other means which they may think most advisable.

5. By Isaac Pierce.—

Resolved, That a copy of each of the periodical or other publications, subscribed for, on account of the Convention, or presented to it by the editors or publishers thereof, so far as they are unappropriated, be furnished the president of the Convention, and the secretary of each of the societies represented in this Convention.

The following resolution was offered by J. Parker, and read—viz:

Resolved, That article II. section 1st, of the constitution, be altered by striking out the words, "in the city of Philadelphia on the 1st Tuesday in October," and inserting, on the 2nd Monday in December; and the places of meeting shall be alternately in the cities of Philadelphia and Washington, D. C.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to William Rawle, Esq. for the patient and dignified manner in which he presided over its several sittings.

On motion, adjourned sine die.

MEMORIALS

FROM THE AMERICAN CONVENTION.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The Memorial of the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race, respectfully sheweth:

That your memorialists, acting in accordance with the designs of their Association, and prompted by their love of country and the paramount obligations of Christianity, earnestly solicit your attention to the condition of the population of the territory over which your honorable body holds exclusive jurisdiction. More than half a century has elapsed since the representatives of the American States, in Congress assembled, declared to the world, as "self-evident truths: that all men are created equal, and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." But that Congress, one of the greatest and most dignified bodies the world ever beheld, having but limited jurisdiction, were unable to do more than to proclaim these truths, as the basis of the government they were about to establish. The Constitution since framed, has delegated no authority to the General Government to enforce their views in relation to slavery, existing in any of the States; but that instrument, so far as it respects the District of Columbia, has invested Congress with an unrestrained privilege.

To this spot the eyes of the friends of equal rights are directed: to this spot the patriot, the philosopher, and the statesman, look for that perfect system of laws which at once develope the wisdom of the Government, display the justice and benevolence of its policy, and exhibit a practical illustration of the principles proclaimed in our declaration of independence.

Within this District, however, slavery yet exists; many of the African race, purchased for a distant market, are concentrated here, where the sounds of the clanking fetters mingle with the voice of American statesmen, legislating for a free people!

We, therefore, most respectfully, but most earnestly, entreat

your attention to the subject of slavery in the District of Columbia; and especially we solicit that your honorable body may designate a period by law, after which no child, born within the District, shall be held to be a slave. We respectfully submit that the honor of our common country, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind, and the strong injunctions of Christianity, alike call for your interference upon this momentous subject.

WM. RAWLE, *President.*

EDWIN P. ATLEE, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, Oct. 1827.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

The American Convention for promoting the abolition of slavery and improving the condition of the African race, most respectfully represent:

That an opportunity is now offered, in which, without violating any supposed private rights, or encroaching upon any state sovereignty, the exalted principles of liberty, on which our constitution was founded, may be fully displayed and enforced by your honorable body.

The eminent rank, which these United States have so rapidly attained among nations, is mainly attributable to the high dignity and undeviating rectitude of their public proceedings—to the equal rights and uninvaded freedom of their citizens. Our enemies can cast on us but one reproach, but, of that reproach they are not sparing. Why, they ask, if all men are born free and equal, is the slavery of so large a portion of your inhabitants still continued among you? To this enquiry no better answer can be given than, that at the period of our political emancipation, the situation of many of the Southern States was supposed to render the measure of domestic emancipation dangerous, if not impracticable. Yet those who had the misfortune to be subjected to this evil, would willingly have commuted a species of precarious and artificial property for any other more substantial in itself, and more consonant with their own moral feelings. It has since been the

frequent effort of Southern legislation to diminish the quantity of the evil which, it was supposed, could not wholly be removed. Hence their concurrence in the suppression of the slave trade, and hence, in some instances, their refusal to admit slaves from other states into their own precincts. In all similar efforts, we doubt not that the legislature of the United States would accordingly co-operate, but the defect of power sometimes impedes the wishes of benevolence and the dispensations of justice.

Aware that however consonant the opinions of your honorable body on this subject may be with our own, your constitutional powers are thus limited, we abstain from preferring any request to which you cannot accede; but we respectfully submit that in the late acquisition of an extensive tract, in a great part yet unsettled, the absolute dominion and internal regulation of which belong to Congress alone, the trial might be made, whether a southern latitude necessarily requires the establishment of domestic slavery; or whether in the Territory of Florida, as well as in other places, the cultivation of land, and the general prosperity of the country, would not be eminently promoted by the use of free labor alone. If the few persons who are already settled there, desire to retain their fellow creatures in bondage, let the example of the superior productiveness of free labor be set before their eyes, and let Congress avail itself of the happy opportunity to elevate the Territory itself to a pinnacle of prosperity, while it supports our national character, in the preservation of human rights and consistent justice.

Another consideration may be added to the foregoing. The extensive unsettled coast of this Territory, and its vicinity to the West India Islands, render the evasion of the existing laws against the slave trade easy—whereas, if it were settled by a free yeomanry, it would form an effectual barrier to such illicit trade, and a strong protection to the slave holding states against the invasion of a foreign enemy.

Our most respectful request is, that Congress will be pleased to prohibit, by law, the further introduction of slaves into the Territory of Florida.

WM. RAWLE, *President.*

EDWIN P. ATLEE, *Secretary.*

Philadelphia, Oct. 1827.

COMMUNICATIONS.

From the New York Manumission Society.

To the American Convention for promoting the abolition of Slavery and improving the condition of the African race, at its session to be held in Philadelphia, 1827.

In making their customary address to the American Convention, the New York Society for promoting the manumission of slaves and protecting such of them as have been, and may be liberated, have but one new fact of importance to communicate.

On the fourth day of July last, slavery ceased to exist in the State of New York. It is no longer authorised by our statute book.

For the encouragement of Abolition Societies, in slave holding States, we would observe, that this desirable object has been effected, principally, by the persevering efforts of this society. Though we feel that this event in our history is a fit subject for congratulation, yet we are far from holding ourselves excused from co-operating with benevolent individuals and associations in our sister States, in endeavors to accomplish the gradual, but final abolition of slavery in our common country. We are aware that this abolition must be produced by State Legislation; and we disclaim any constitutional right to interfere with the legislation of sister States, on this or any other subject relating to their internal concerns.

The individuals composing this society, feel, however, that we have a right to avail ourselves of that friendly communication which exists between all the citizens of this National Commonwealth, and that sympathy of feeling, and commerce of ideas, consequent upon such communication, to reason with our fellow citizens, on this, and every other subject of moral and political interest. By the diligent yet kind and respectful exercise of this right, as well by oral communication, as through the medium of the press, the friends of abolition in the free states, may, it is thought, be able to exercise a salutary influence on the public sentiment in the slave holding states—an influence which will not be long in finding its way to the legislatures of these states, and there producing at first a melioration, and ultimately a termination, of the evil complained of.

Daily experience convinces us, that under the popular forms of government, adopted in the United States, we have no right to expect, however reasonable such an expectation might be, that legislative bodies will pass laws proposing any important changes in existing establishments or habits, though such changes should be recommended by every principle of justice and humanity, unless their propriety be first indicated by public sentiment. To correct this sentiment, therefore, on the right of holding human beings in slavery, as it exists in slaveholding communities, by the publication of facts and arguments, shewing a comparison between free and slave labor, as it effects the interest of those who employ the one or the other, and by repeated statements of the political, moral, and religious considerations, opposed to the practice of slavery, should, it is believed, form the principle business of societies represented in the Convention.

As a means of communication in the manner above stated, we recommend the establishment of Abolition Societies in the slaveholding States. Such Societies will serve as rallying points for sound principles. The number recently formed in North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, are subjects of congratulation and encouragement. We hope that some, or all, of these societies may be represented in the Convention, at the coming session, and learn from actual communication with the members of this body, that we are not, as we have been slanderously reported, wild enthusiasts, who are disposed, without regard to consequences, to produce a sudden emancipation of all the slaves in the country. In connection with the subject of disseminating intelligence, we would mention with warm approbation the formation of a company in Baltimore, for the purpose of furnishing a capital to aid the publication of the paper styled the Genius of Universal Emancipation, printed in that city, and to give this useful paper more extensive circulation, and also for the purpose of publishing and circulating tracts on the subject of slavery. This Society is earnestly and respectfully recommended to the notice and patronage of the Convention; but it is suggested that all its members ought to be inhabitants of slave holding States, for reasons which will be obvious to the Convention.

Since the last meeting of the Convention, this Society has

adopted some proceedings, consisting of the appointment of a committee, who have corresponded with a number of distinguished individuals in this country, with a view to the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. We hope that the Convention may see fit to prosecute this subject with vigor. It would afford us much pleasure to learn that the Convention has adopted a memorial to Congress, requesting that body to enact laws providing for an immediate or gradual abolition of slavery in this National District, as they in their wisdom may think best; and that such memorial will be forwarded by a respectable and intelligent agent, employed by the Convention. The propriety of obtaining from the legislatures of all the States that will make a favorable expression of their opinion on this subject, in the form of instructions to their representatives in Congress, has been suggested to this Society by most respectable authority, and is submitted to the Convention.

The schools, under the charge of the Society, are yet continued, and contain at present 260 girls, and 320 boys.

The officers for the present year, are:

Cadwallader D. Colden, *President.*
George Newbold, 1st *Vice President.*
Peter Augustus Jay, 2nd *Vice President.*
Goold Brown, *Secretary.*
Thomas Hale, *Assistant Secretary.*
Richard Mott, Jr. *Register.*

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Barney Corse, *Chairman.*
Edmund Haviland, *Secretary.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Michael M. Titus, *Chairman,*	Thomas Hale,
Joseph W. Corleis, *Secretary,*	Richard Field,
Robert C. Cornell,	Robert Hicks,
Ira Clizbe,	David S. Brown,
Mahlon Day,	Joseph Corleis,
William W. Mott,	Isaac Hatch,
William F. Mott,	Willet Seaman,
Peter S. Titus,	William L. Stone,
Borden Chase,	Samuel Falconer,

Isaac Sherwood, William Lawton,
Thomas Leggett, Jr. Thomas P. Bowne.

COUNSELLORS.

C. D. Colden, William Johnson,
Benjamin Clark, Thomas A. Emmett,
Peter A. Jay, Hiram Ketchum,
William Slosson, Ira Clizbe.

COMMITTEE OF CORRESPONDENCE.

Dr. John Stearns, *Chairman*, Abram L. Cox,
Wm. L. Stone, *Secretary*, Joseph Blunt,
Ira Clizbe, Hiram Ketchum.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

Joseph Corleis, *Chairman*, William L. Ferris,
Wm. C. White, *Secretary*, Henry Haydock,
John B. Wright, Richard Mott, Jr.

DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION THIS YEAR.

William L. Stone, Harvey Shotwell,
Aaron Leggett, Evan Lewis.
Mahlon Day,

CADWALLADER D. COLDEN, *President.*

THOMAS HALE, *Assistant Secretary.*

FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race.

In addressing you at this time, we feel animated by the continued advances made in the Christian world by the principles of civil liberty; and although the continent of South America continues to be distracted by faction, yet considerable progress has been made in the march of freedom; personal liberty is now considered, in that extensive country, as the natural right of man; slavery has been abolished in some of the states, and the slave trade in all. In the empire of Austria too, by an imperial edict, slavery is for ever abolished.—And, though little has been done of late years, to lessen the evil in the United States, we sincsrely

hope that those who have associated themselves in the sacred cause of promoting the abolition of slavery, will not suffer themselves to be discouraged or to become lukewarm in their efforts, in consequence of the opposition they meet with from the interested and the prejudiced. The progress of liberty in this country, though slow, is sure, and thousands of individuals have been associated in the several states within a short period, to accelerate its march.

This society being incorporated, not only to promote the abolition of slavery, but to protect the rights of free persons of color, and to improve their condition, by all laudable means, its duties are arduous and responsible, and require our unwearied efforts for the protection of their personal freedom: without which, life is but a tedious existence. Our worthy ancestors, more effectually to secure this invaluable privilege, have guaranteed to us the trial by Jury, and the writ of Habeas Corpus. It is however believed that, contrary to the intentions of the immortal framers of our constitutions, by virtue of an act of Congress, a person arrested as a slave, either white or colored, may be carried off from any State, on an exparte examination, by the decision of a single Judge.

As this is a subject of the utmost importance, we respectfully invite your especial attention to its investigation. Next in importance to the protection of personal freedom, we consider the acquisition of useful knowledge; without which, the human mind has been aptly compared to marble in the quarry. We rejoice in the prospect that, from the liberal views and wise provisions of the comptrollers of our public schools, together with the schools established by societies and individuals, for their benefit, the children of indigent colored persons will, ere long, enjoy more fully the blessings of judicious instruction. The school established many years since, by this society, continues to be well attended and prosperous.

An Institution has for several years existed in this city, entitled "The Shelter," unknown except to its philanthropic female supporters and a few of their friends, in which colored orphan children are received, and when arrived to a suitable age are apprenticed. Owing to the increasing population of poor persons of

color in our city, there is a wide field of labor open, and we regret to learn that the limited funds of this truly benevolent Institution, necessarily contracts the sphere of its usefulness.

Through the aid of our worthy Mayor, Jos. Watson, Esq. kidnapping has received a check, which must have a salutary influence on the perpetrators of that diabolical crime. By his spirited exertions, a number of free persons, who had been sold into slavery, have been restored to liberty; and two of the guilty have been brought to punishment. From the facilities of secreting and transporting the victims, we are fearful, however, that many cases occur, which are never brought to light.

Our society is now engaged in several suits, in distant States, to recover the freedom of kidnapped persons, and to bring the offenders to punishment.

The great increase of manufactories, must occasion an additional demand for laborers; and we believe that the employment in them of free colored persons, under wise regulations, would conduce much to their comfort, and tend to advance them in the estimation of society. The want of constant employment is, no doubt, the cause of many of the evils they suffer.

The African slave trade continues to attract our attention: and we hope the Convention may take into consideration whether any thing can be done, by us, towards effecting its diminution, or extinction. Is it not to be feared that the smuggling of slaves still continues in some of the southern States?

Since the accession of Florida, we have been increasingly anxious, that so fine a country might be saved from the curse of an enslaved population; or, at least, such measures adopted, as would prevent its increase, and promote its abolition. Perhaps an address to Congress from the Convention, on the subject, might be advantageous.

The domestic slave trade, will, no doubt, be a prominent subject in your deliberations. We conceive it to be a cruelty, scarcely equalled by the enormities of the African slave trade, and for which our land cries aloud to Heaven for judgment. How very inconsistent are we, to punish the foreign slave trader as a pirate, while we justify the domestic trader, by positive law! Can we for a moment, close our eyes to its demoralizing effects upon the

victims and the traders themselves?—It is the very parent of kidnapping! That such a barbarous violation of Christianity, and even the common decencies of life, should have been practiced in this age, will be looked at, by our posterity, with as much surprise, as we now feel that our ancestors could have tolerated the *African* trade.

We regret, sincerely, that slavery, in the District of Columbia, still continues to disgrace our National Code; but are not without hope, that the noble efforts now making by the benevolent and virtuous citizens of the District, for its abolition, will be crowned with success.

As the subject of free and slave labor has been, of late, agitating the mind of abolitionists, generally; and believing that the cause of emancipation would be advanced, by bringing the free in competition with the slave laborer; we invite the attention of the Convention thereto.

This Society, as heretofore, has thought it unnecessary to take any part in measures of foreign colonization; at the same time wishing full success to every truly benevolent and disinterested scheme, for improving the condition of the African race.

The abolition of slavery, particularly in the United States, must always be the chief objects of our endeavors. It is a cause which must equally animate the christian and the patriot—and it is our interest, no less than our duty, to spread the blessings of liberty and justice, that mankind may rise and walk in the erect intelligence in which they were created, and war, wrong, and outrage, be forever banished from the earth.

We cannot close our address, without recommending to your notice a periodical paper, published in this city, entitled the "*African Observer*;" also, one published in New York, and edited by a person of color, entitled "*Freedom's Journal*;" both of which, we believe, from their intrinsic merit, as well as for their extensive usefulness, in aiding the cause of the injured African, deserve our warmest support.

We have delegated to your body, as our representatives, William Rawle, Esq. Jonas Preston, M. D. Joseph M. Paul, Benjamin Tucker, Thomas Shipley, Isaac Barton, James Mott, Joseph P.

Norris, Jun. Esq. David Paul Brown Esq. and E. P. AtLee, M. D. and append a list of our officers, for the present year.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, the relief of free negroes unlawfully held in bondage, and for the improvement of the African race.

THOMAS SHIPLEY, *President, pro. tem.*

SAMUEL MASON, JR. *Secretary,*

Philadelphia, 9th Mo. (September,) 27, 1827.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

William Rawle,—*President.*
Jonas Preston,—*1st Vice President.*
Benjamin Tucker,—*2d Vice President.*
Henry Troth,—*Treasurer.*
Samuel Mason, Jun. } *Secretaries.*
Edwin P. AtLee, }

COUNSELLORS.

John Sergeant, }
William Rawle, Jr. }
David Paul Brown, } *For the City of Philadelphia.*
John C. Lowber, }
Jos. P. Norris, Jr. }
Thomas Earle, }

Jos. W. Rowland, *Montgomery County.*
Matthias Morris, *Bucks do.*
James Hopkins, *Lancaster do.*
Samuel Edwards, *Delaware, do.*
Samuel Sitgreaves, *Northampton, do.*

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Thomas Shipley,
E. P. AtLee,
Peter Wright,
Thos. Parker, Jr.
Thos. Earle,
Thos. Ridgeway,
Jos. Parker,
John Bouvier,
Marshal Attmore,
Powell Stackhouse,
George Peterson,
Isaac Barton.

ELECTING COMMITTEE.

Powell Stackhouse,
Jos. M. Truman,
David Weatherly,
Josh. Todhunter,
Marshal Attmore,
Robert Murphy.

Thomas Earle,
Jos. Evans,
Wm. Jones,
William S. Hallowell,
Wm. J. Kirk,
Jesse Stanley,
Samuel C. Atkinson.

FROM THE FREE PRODUCE SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery and improving the condition of the African race.

The approaching meeting of Delegates, from the several Abolition Societies in the United States, affording an opportunity for the suggestion and consideration of any plans for the Abolition of Slavery, the *Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania* deem it a fit occasion to submit to you some of the views which have led to their organization, and which, they believe, to be intimaiely connected with the great purpose of *Emancipation*.

In contemplating the progress which has been made in the Abolition of Slavery in this country, we are entirely convinced that the beneficient influences of the religion of Christ, and considerations of immutable justice, have solely influenced a large portion of our fellow countrymen, in restoring to their unalienable rights those who were in bondage to them. At the same time, so striking is the disparity in the results which have attended the christian efforts of benevolent men and associations, in different sections of our country—procuring a total abolition in some, while in others solitary instances of emancipation are even of rare occurrence, that we must suppose the general existence of a high moral principle in the former, unfelt in the latter, or recur to auxiliary causes, inferior as to motive, but potent in their consequences, to account for the vast discrepitude which is at present exhibited.

On a careful investigation of the causes which may have conduced to this result, we can perceive none so influential as would be a discovery of the fact, by practical observation, that the labor of slaves is more expensive than that of freemen. And we find, on examination into the situation of the colored population in this country, at the period when they were generally held in bondage, that in those states where the fullest opportunity existed for com-

paring their labor with that of freemen, the work of abolition steadily advanced, until the shackles of the slave were completely severed; while in others, where such opportunities of comparison did not exist, or existed but partially, the cause of emancipation was resisted, or its progress materially retarded.

Directing our attention to the present situation of slavery, we find that several of those now designated as slave states, have been gradually arriving at the conviction that the holding of slaves, for the purposes of labor, is unprofitable. Pursuing, as a means of subsistence and commerce, the cultivation of productions which are raised in contiguous states by freemen, they have severely felt the effects of free competition; and but for a fictitious value given to their slaves, by the demand for them in other states, where the cultivation is of a kind which free labor has not yet competed with, we believe they would be shortly prepared to abandon the system.

The others of those states, raising productions for which, as yet, they possess a monopoly, are not affected by those considerations which elsewhere have produced such valuable impressions and results; their slave labor, whatever it may cost them, is included in the value which they assign to the article they produce; and having no competitors, this value they readily procure.

From the view we have thus taken of this subject, the states last described appear to form the great barrier to a general abolition; the first mentioned being but their purveyors, to afford them their requisite supply of laborers.

From this view, also, it will appear how important it is to bring free into competition with slave labor, in every article of cultivation. It is the great lever, by which this Colossus is to be overturned!

To afford our aid, however humble, in bringing this powerful engine into action, has been the object for which we have associated. To effect such a purpose, it is important to create a demand for free produce—at even an enhanced price—if such advance should be requisite to give a first impulse. The mere determination, however, of any considerable portion of the community, to give a preference to productions of this description, would ensure attention to the demand; and *free labor*, once incited, would pur-

sue its resistless course, spreading and deepening its channels as it advanced.

We are admonished by passing events, that for one of the staples of slave production, that of cotton, a greatly increased and increasing demand has been created by the manufacturing enterprise of our countrymen; which, unless supplied by free cultivators, will tend more firmly to rivet the bonds of the oppressed. We disguise not our apprehensions, that the immediate dependence of our manufactories upon slave labor, for the material they employ, may have the effect to deaden that ardent attachment to the cause of freedom which has long distinguished our free northern states.

Conscientious views have long been operating on the minds of individuals, to deter them from the use of slave productions. The moral axiom is not less true, that *the consumer is the slave holder*, than the commercial one, that "the consumer is the payer of all imposts." Withdraw the consumption, and slavery ceases! It becomes extinct, the moment the consumers will it! Our brethren of the south are aware of this truth, and when we reason with them of slavery, they reply, "We are your factors."

Impressions, however, which lead to a rejection of the use of articles raised by slaves, have been restrained from the fear of appearing to be hostile to their owners. Philanthropists have heretofore approached the subject, by attempting to produce on the mind of the slave holder convictions of the injustice of slavery. But if, after long continued efforts, we have failed to attain any practical result, to the extent desired, it is our duty to bring into action other and stronger incentives, by appealing to his interest.

No means, however, which our Society propose to employ for eradicating the system of slavery, can be materially detrimental to the slave holder. The moment he perceives that a great preference is given to the produce of freemen, he brings his laborers into that condition, and reaps a rich harvest from the transition.

That such gain will assuredly attend this change in the condition of his laborers, is amply demonstrated by the experience of the honorable Joshua Steel, in relation to the negroes on three extensive plantations, which belonged to him in Barbadoes; and

that extensive emancipation may be effected with great facility, and entire safety and advantage to the community, has been ably illustrated by that great abolitionist, Thomas Clarkson, whose character for patient investigation, in relation to every subject upon which he writes, and for entire candor in the collecting and exhibition of all the facts having a bearing on the case, have entitled his observations to peculiar regard and attention Thus the plan of desisting from the produce of slave labor, in its result, is shown to be really productive of benefit to the master, while *the poor slave*, not to be forgotten in this consideration, derives from the exchange, to himself and his posterity, incalculable advantages.

The present, is a day of revived interest on the subject of African wrongs. In England great efforts are now making to procure a remedy for them. Tracts are widely disseminated, showing the evil and impolicy of slavery, and the equity and moral obligation of desisting from the use of its productions. Even those truths, in language adapted to the infantile capacity, are inculcated in the elementary books, placed in the hands of their children ! Thus is secured a new generation of philanthropists in that kingdom; and thus may we be assured that, though for a time, wealth, cupidity, national and colonial policy, may parry the energetic attack of her abolitionists, the fate of colonial slavery is sealed ! "Let us be up and doing."

To submit to you these considerations, with a copy of our Constitution, and to represent us in your Convention, we have appointed Dr. Joseph Parrish, Joseph Parker, and Jesse W. Newport.

BENJAMIN TUCKER, *Vice President*

THOMAS M'CLINTOCK, *Secretary*

Philadelphia, 10th mo. 1st, 1827.

From the Delaware Abolition Society.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race.

The Delaware Society for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, &c. in contemplating the approaching call of the Convention, are induced to hope, that from a concentration of views and feelings, and a free interchange of sentiment on the great subject of African emancipation, new energies may be imparted to the different constituent societies, and fresh advocates enlisted in the cause of suffering humanity.

The operations of our society, though of late much circumscribed, we believe have been useful, through the instrumentality of our Acting Committee, in affording protection and comfort to the objects of our care; and however limited those efforts may have been, it furnishes a consoling reflection, if they have rescued but an individual sufferer from wrong and outrage, or diminished, in any degree, the aggregate of human misery.

We contemplate with satisfaction the increasing interest which some of the great European powers have evinced in the abolition of the slave trade: that the laws of the French government have been recently modified, with a view to enforce, more effectually, a compliance with their provisions: that Great Britain, in a late communication through her minister to the Portuguese government, distinctly stated, that she would never sign a treaty with that power, that did not contain an article for the final and total abolition of the slave trade. The result has been not only a complete acquiescence on the part of the latter, to that demand, but also "a pledge to co-operate with the former, for the total extinction of that barbarous traffic throughout the world."

That however remote the extinction of this evil may be, we are induced to believe, that an approximation to the great principles of justice and right, both in communities and nations, is gradually preparing the way for that event; and under the blessing of a kind Providence, will finally result in the complete triumph of humanity.

These cheering reflections are somewhat alloyed, when we turn our eyes to this favored land, where fifty years since, our rulers

proclaimed in emphatic language to the world, that freedom is the inalienable right of all mankind. What a contrast with this declaration is now presented, when nearly two millions of our population are groaning under worse than Egyptian bondage, and the degrading and cruel system is advocated by a large body of our citizens, with a zeal worthy of a better cause.—Such is the inconsistency of man, when avarice and cupidity are suffered to prevail over the dictates of conscience, when reasons of state and doctrines of expediency are admitted in competition with that divine law, of universal obligation, "To do to all men, as we would they should do to us."

On the other hand, it is consoling to observe the rapid increase of anti-slavery societies throughout our country, and more particularly in some of the slave-holding states, with the establisment of sundry periodical publications of a similar character. In one of these, of a late date, we observe the following: "The editor of the Genius of Universal Emancipation congratulates his readers on the certain prospect of success in sustaining this work, notwithstanding the many difficulties necessary to be encountered—advocates of the cause it embraces, are continually increasing, and the number of efficient patrons is steadily augmenting."

The two schools, mentioned in our last address, continue to afford the opportunity of instruction to a large number of the descendants of Africa.

We have appointed John Wales, Thomas Garrett, Jr. Samuel S. Grubb, and Lea Pusey, our Delegates to the Convention.

The officers of the society, for the present year, are:

John Wales, *President.*
Edward Worrell, } *Vice Presidents.*
John Reynolds, }
William Seal, *Treasurer.*
Samuel Hilles, *Secretary.*
Thomas Garrett, Jr. }
William Chandler, }
E. W. Gilbert, } *Acting Committee.*
Benjamin Webb, }
Benjamin W. Bracken, }

Signed by order of the society.

JOHN WALES, *President.*

SAMUEL HILLES, *Secretary.*

Wilmington, 9th Mo. (September.) 19. 1827.

From the Delaware Free Labor Society.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race.

"The Society for the encouragement of Free Labor," being yet in its infancy, can have but little to say on the subject of its operations, in addressing the Convention at this period.

It may, however, not be unacceptable to have our views somewhat more distinctly defined than they are in our Constitution, a copy of which will accompany this communication:

Satisfied in our own minds that on a fair experiment, having for its object a just comparison between the profits of the labor of freemen and the labor of slaves, that the result will appear decidedly in favor of the former; our first object in giving a preference to the one, over the other, is to induce a trial of the experiment among those people, and in those districts, where, from the circumstances by which they are surrounded, opinions of a contrary nature prevail: and we believe that whenever the judgment of the slaveholder is convinced that he would be a gainer by substituting the labor of freemen for that of slaves, such a conviction will lead, in the end, to our ultimate object, which is the same that is sought after by the great body of abolitionists, namely, Universal Emancipation.—An opinion, however, seems to prevail among some of our fellow laborers in the work of emancipation, that the giving a preference to the produce of free labor, over that of slaves, carries with it the appearance of a measure of coercion; as though we would say to the holders of slaves: "We do not only refuse to purchase your produce and manufactures, but we will encourage others to follow our example, until we accomplish your ruin;" thus, rather exciting the resentment, than working conviction in the minds, of those whom we would gladly relieve from a heavy burden.—It may be observed, in reply, that we hold out no premium for free goods, by offering an higher price for them than for those produced by slaves; but that when we are about to purchase, and articles are exhibited for sale of equal quality and price, the one grown or manufactured by freemen, the other by slaves, we give a preference to the former; or, in the language of our Constitution, we prefer the produce of free labor

when it can be done without pecuniary sacrifice; and if, by encouraging such a preference, we can create a demand, that shall lead to the trial of an experiment in the southern states, comparing free and slave labor with each other, we believe, at least, that a good work will be accomplished.

In the course of our enquiries on the subject of procuring such free goods as are usually produced by slave labor, it has been ascertained that considerable quantities of raw cotton may be obtained, produced in the slave districts of the United States, untouched by slaves; some of which has been manufactured in this vicinity, and is now on sale, at fair prices.

An attempt has likewise been made to keep up a stock of groceries, uncontaminated by slavery; but it is found that they can not yet be procured in sufficient quantities, at prices to compete with the like articles produced by slave labor, coffee alone excepted.

We have appointed Benjamin Webb, Isaac Pierce, and Lea Pusey, our delegates to the Convention.

The officers of the Society, for the current year, are:

Lea Pusey, *President*,
Robert Porter, } *Vice Presidents.*
John Reynolds, }
William P. Richards, *Secretary.*
Charles Canby, *Treasurer.*

Isaac Pierce,
Dr. Wm. Gibbons,
Rev. E. W. Gilbert,
Jos. G. Rowland,
Eli Hilles,
Benj. Webb. } *Acting Committee.*

Signed by order of the Society,

LEA PUSEY, *President.*

Wm. P. Richards, *Secretary.*

Wilmington, 9th Mo. 29th. 1827.

From the Anti Slavery Society of Maryland.

To the American Convention. &c.

The Maryland Anti-Slavery Convention with pleasure embrace this present opportunity to communicate with their brethren of other kindred associations in the United States, through the medium of their delegates, about to meet in General Convention, at Philadelphia. Though we cannot furnish you with information from this quarter that will be as satisfactory as we could wish, still we are pleased to have it in our power to state, that, the great work of universal emancipation is evidently progressing among us—that the minds of the people are becoming more and more awakend to view the subject in its true light, and we have reason to believe the number of its advocates are increasing.

With these few preliminary remarks, the following statement respecting the system of slavery in Maryland, is respectfully submitted to your consideration. Although slavery was unfortunately introduced into the Colony of Maryland soon after its settlement, yet the first legislative act to be found in our statute book, recognising slavery, was passed in the year 1715. One section of that act is as follows:

"All negroes, and other slaves, already imported, or hereafter to be imported into this province, and all children now born, or hereafter to be born of such negroes and slaves, shall be slaves during their natural lives."

Upon this section, depends the title to all the slaves in Maryland—upon this foundation, the superstructure of slavery has been reared. Slaves continued to be imported into this state, from Africa and elsewhere, until the year 1783, when further importations were prohibited. Until 1752, it appears that owners of slaves were permitted to manumit them, without regard to age or condition, by deed, by last will, and even by verbal declaration. In that year, an act was passed, "prohibiting further manumissions by "last will," and by "verbal orders."—It also prohibited the manumission of old and infirm slaves. In 1796, the power of manumission, by last will and testament, was restored to the master. Under the operation of these laws, a large portion of the black population of the State have become free. It appears by the census of 1820, that there were 107,398 slaves, and 39,730 free blacks, in the State.

Slavery implies a total deprivation of social and civil rights; and the laws of Maryland adopt this principle throughout. Marriage, is not recognised among slaves, nor any of the relations depending on matrimony. Although in point of fact, a black man, or a white one, may marry his own slave, yet it is no marriage in law; and he may, at pleasure, sell his wife and her children as slaves; for children inherit the condition of their mother: and a woman may, also, sell her own husband into slavery.

The condition of slavery is considerably ameliorated in Maryland, since the revolution. In general, masters treat their slaves with kindness and humanity. But still, there are many who treat them with great harshness and severity. It is perfectly manifest that, in so large a community, there will always be many unprincipled men, of ferocious tempers and brutal passions, who will maltreat and abuse every body and every thing over whom they have controul; and such persons will, of course, abuse their slaves. It is true a master is liable to be indicted and punished for mal-treating his slave; and so he is for mal-treating his horse.—The law affords the same protection to both in all cases, short of destroying life, which, in the case of a slave, may be punished as murder. One of the greatest evils, however, to which the slaves of Maryland are subject, is their liability to be sold to the southern slave traders. The public sentiment, in Maryland, is decidedly opposed to this barbarous and inhuman traffic; but still there are a great many slaveholders who have no compunction of conscience upon the subject, and constantly supply these vultures with their prey. Slaves, also, belonging to intestate estates, are sold at public auction, to the highest bidder; and slaves taken in execution, are sold by Sheriffs in the same way, and are usually bought by these slave traders, for the southern market.—Families are thus forever separated, and a degree of wretchedness and misery is constantly produced, which beggars all description. This trade is extensively carried on from Maryland. These traders have jails, or dens, located in different parts of the State, where the slaves are collected, and then sent off, in droves, to the southern market. When sent by water, they are usually put on board the vessel at night, so as to avoid the public gaze, and prevent examination.—When sent by land, they are chained together in gangs, and driven off

under the lash. This appears to be one of the necessary evils of slavery, which cannot well be prevented, so long as the system itself is continued. One great evil attending this disgraceful traffic, is the facility it affords for kidnapping free negroes, and carrying off slaves entitled to freedom after a term of years. A trader, who has resided twelve months in the State, is at liberty to purchase slaves who have been manumitted to be free after a term of years; and when thus purchased, they are often sent to the southern market, where there is little chance that they will obtain their freedom when their term of servitude is expired. Although the legislature has passed some laws for the protection of the free blacks, still they are liable to much abuse and imposition, without the possibility of redress. A negro cannot be a witness against a white person, in any case.—He cannot prove an account against a white man, or hold him to bail upon his own affidavit.—Hence the blacks have frequently no redress for personal or pecuniary injuries, from the whites. It frequently happens, also, that a free negro will marry a female slave, with the consent of her master. While the woman is bearing children, she will be permitted to live with her husband, and by their joint labors they maintain themselves, and raise a family of children. As soon as the children arrive at an age to be valuable, they are frequently seized on by the master, and sold to the traders. Sometimes the mother also after she has lived as a free person with her husband for years, is claimed as a slave, separated from her husband, and sold. There have been instances where two or three generations of children have been seized and reduced to slavery, by the posterity of the original master, who, no doubt, never intended to reclaim them. This is cruel injustice, and a reproach to the laws of the State. To remedy this evil, several attempts have been made to procure the passage of a law, limiting the time after which the original owner, or those claiming under him, should not reclaim his slave whom he suffered to go at large, or her posterity; but hitherto these attempts never have been successful. There does not seem to be any good reason why a right to a slave should not be barred by a statute of limitation, as well as a right to any other property. It will be impossible to communicate all the evils which slavery has inflicted upon every class of population in Maryland.

By the intelligent and reflecting part of the people, in this State, slavery is considered a sore evil to the whites, as well as the slaves. The intelligent farmers are beginning to be convinced—nay, they are already convinced—that slave labor is the dearest they can employ: and we are of opinion that the time is not distant, when they will be willing to adopt a system of gradual emancipation, such as has been adopted in Pennsylvania and New York, with such happy success.

Within the last three years, eleven associations have been formed in Maryland, the most of which have been represented, as Branches of the Anti-Slavery Society, in a State Convention, that meets annually in the city of Baltimore. The number of persons who have joined in membership, is about five hundred. The chief objects of these associations is, to procure a passage of a law, by the legislature, such as the legislatures of Pennsylvania and New York have passed, fixing a date, after which all children born in the State, shall be free at a certain age. In our opinion, this is the only way in which slavery can ever be eradicated from the state.

In pursuance of a resolution of the last Convention, a memorial to Congress was prepared, and signed by about thirteen hundred of the voters of Baltimore, praying Congress to pass a law for the gradual abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia. That memorial was read in Congress, and produced, as we are informed, a very strong sensation. In the debate, which the memorial gave rise to, it was objected, that the people of the District had not petitioned Congress upon the subject; thereby plainly admitting, that if the people of the District should petition, it would be the duty of Congress to take the subject into consideration; and whenever Congress does take the subject into consideration, we have but little doubt that they will pass sueh a law as is prayed for.

Believing that the labors of the American Colonization Society have some effect in drawing the attention of the people of the United States to the subject of Slavery, and that much good would result from the cultivation of a friendly intercourse, we would suggest the propriety of proposing a correspondence with that in-

stitution, in order to ascertain whether it be practicable to obtain its co-operation in the work of general emancipation.

We now appoint, Daniel Raymond, William Kesley, Benjamin Lundy, David Harryman, David Brown, William E. Coale, Daniel Zollickkoffer, Charles E. Baldwin, N. H. Ware, and John Quarles, our delegates to the American Convention, for the present year.

The names of our officers, at this time, are as follows:

David Harryman, *President.*
Daniel Zollickoffer, *Vice President.*
Henry Mankin, *Recording Secretary.*
Nicholas Denboer, *Corresponding Secretary.*
William R. Jones, *Treasurer.*

Benjamin Lundy,
David Brown,
W. Willis Stratton,
S. W. Stratton,
N. H. Ware,
John T. Jones,
I. N. Hoopes,
W. R. Jones,
Aquila Jones,
Daniel Raymond,
W. H. Morgan,
J. I. Thomson,
} *Acting Committee.*

Signed by order of the Convention of the Anti-Slavery Society of Maryland, held in the City of Baltimore, on the 21st day of September, 1827.

D. HARRYMAN, *President.*

HENRY MANKIN, *Secretary.*

From the Benevolent Society of Alexandria for Improving the Condition of the People of Color.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race, to be held in Philadelphia on the 2nd day of the 10th month next.

Respected Friends:

A letter from the Secretary of your Acting Committee, dated the 10th ultimo, inviting us to send delegates to the next meeting of the Convention, to be held in Philadelphia, has been received.

We feel a deep interest in the cause in which you are engaged, and it would give us much pleasure to participate in your deliberations; but not being able to find any among our number, who can at this time conveniently attend, we must content ourselves with giving you, by letter, an account of our proceedings and prospects, in regard to the interesting work of improving the condition of the African race.

Our Society was instituted during the last winter, and now consists of about nineteen members. Its leading objects are: to liberate those who are illegally held in bondage; to improve the condition of the free people of color; and to diffuse among our fellow citizens more just views on the subject of slavery.

In prosecuting the first of these objects, we have wrested from the grasp of the slave traders twelve people of color, who have petitioned for their freedom, and we feel confident will obtain it.

They were all brought from the state of Maryland. Eight of them were arrested here, one at Occoquan, and three at Dumfries.

We have reason to believe that several others, also entitled to freedom, or having a limited time to serve, have passed through this District; but owing to the defectiveness of our laws, and the caution of the traders, they were carried beyond our reach before measures could be taken to arrest them.

In order to improve the condition of the free people of color, some of our members, associated with several other young persons of both sexes, have opened an African Sabbath School, which has now been in operation about two months, and consists of 85 boys and 100 girls. About one-third of this number can

read, and some of them remarkably well, especially those who go to other schools during the week, which is the case with many of them. There are in this town three other Sabbath Schools for colored children—one at the Baptist meeting house, one at the second Presbyterian, and the other at the African Methodist meeting house, all of which are pretty large. The teachers, in the last mentioned school, are nearly all people of color.

The third, but not the least important object of our society—that of diffusing among our fellow citizens more just views on the subject of slavery—we have attempted in some measure to effect, by writing a series of essays on this subject, which were published in the Alexandria Gazette, and the Genius of Universal Emancipation, and some of which have been copied into other prints, both north and west of us. Two of these essays, (Nos. 6 and 10) contain information of a local character, which may not have come into the possession of our brethren generally, at a distance; we therefore forward some of the numbers, for your perusal.

The suppression of the domestic slave trade, is a favorite object with all those who have at heart the honor of our country, and the rights of humanity. It has claimed a considerable share of our attention, and our sister society of Washington city, feeling the same interest in it, have agreed to co-operate with us in drawing up a memorial to the Congress of the United States, setting forth the evils and cruelties of this trade, and praying for such redress as they in their wisdom may see fit to grant. We believe that a large majority of our most respectable citizens would sign such a memorial, and that some measure might grow out of it favorable to the cause of humanity.

The abolition of slavery in this District, is an object which we have much at heart; but we believe that it would not be expedient, at present, to ask the citizens of the District to sign a petition to that effect, as it would probably meet with great opposition from some persons here, who have considerable influence. There seems, however, to be a gradual change taking place in public sentiment, which we hope will enable us to attain this desirable end before many years shall pass away; and if the domestic slave trade could, only, be abolished, it would have a powerful tendency to shorten the period. If it were not for this detestable

traffic, those who have a large number of slaves, on poor land, would not long be able to hold them; as it generally takes the whole produce of their labor to clothe and support them; and the only profit of the owner is derived from the sale of the young ones. If this source of profit were cut off, as it soon would be, were there no demand from the south, slavery would have to contend alone against the superior economy of free labor, and would ere long be relinquished in this part of the Union.

The Congress of the United States being invested with the power to regulate commerce among the several states, might, we think, abolish a traffic which not only inflicts great misery on its victims, but tarnishes the national character, and jeopardizes the public safety, by concentrating the most dangerous population in the weakest part of the Union. Their authority to abolish it in this District, cannot be questioned; as, over it, they are invested with the power of exclusive legislation. We would, therefore, solicit the attention of the Convention to this important object, and suggest the propriety of the Anti-Slavery Societies, who may send delegates to the Convention, using their influence with the members of Congress from their several districts, to promote the abolition of the domestic slave trade.

You will perceive from one of the essays now furnished, (No. 11) that we take a warm interest in the colonization of the colored race, either in Hayti or Liberia, but more particularly in the latter place, which we trust is destined to be a secure asylum for many of the colored people of this country, and a school of civilization for the benighted Africans. We have learned, with much regret, that many of the warmest friends of abolition, in the northern States, continue to look upon this colony as a scheme of the slave holders, to remove out of their way the free people of color, in order to hold their slaves the more securely. Some of our members were formerly impressed with the same opinion; but further observation and reflection have convinced us that there are many good and sincere men among the most active promoters of this work, and whatever may be the motives of others who have joined them, we trust that the *effect* will prove beneficial to our country. It has already produced some good in this part of the Union, by inducing the slave holders to reflect upon the evils of slavery;

and when the better feelings of the heart are once enlisted in the cause of humanity, the work of emancipation will still go forward, even if the attempt to colonize should prove abortive. We trust you will excuse us for making these observations; but we are fully convinced that the abolition of slavery will be much retarded in this country, by any opposition (however well intended) to the colonization of the colored race. The southern slave holders are not willing that the slaves shall be liberated to remain among us, and every facility that can be afforded for emigration, will lessen the dangers they apprehend from a general emancipation.

As the Convention will probably be possessed of information respecting the foreign and domestic slave trade, that may not have reached us, we shall be glad to hear from you on this subject, or any other that may claim your attention.

We remain very respectfully your friends.

Signed by direction of the Standing Committee,

SAMUEL M JANNEY, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Alexandria, 9th. Mo. 28th, 1827.

FROM THE WASHINGTON ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Washington. D. C. October 1st, 1827.

MR. ISAAC BARTON:

Sir, Your letter, addressed to Jacob Janney, was duly received, and laid before our Society at the last stated meeting. With pleasure we accept the invitation given, and send to represent us in the Convention, to meet in Philadelphia, on the 2d of October. Mr. J. C. Dawes, and Mr. R. H. Neal.

Residing at the Seat of our General Government, we cannot but feel, and that deeply, a regret that slavery, with all its horrors, is countenanced here. We have, therefore, united ourselves in a Society, to use all lawful means in our power to wipe away that stain for which we are reproached by European nations, in suffering this most cruel system to remain among us.

With peculiar pleasure we view the interest manifested in many parts of our country, for the abolition of slavery in this District;

and we would request the Convention to recommend to the Societies which compose that body, and the friends of emancipation generally, to memorialize Congress, at the ensuing session, for the gradual abolition of slavery here.

We are confident that, should the object of the Society gain a strong hold in this District, it would be of incalculable benefit to the cause throughout the Union.—We, therefore, would respectfully suggest to the Convention the propriety of holding its annual meetings in this city, during the sessions of Congress. The delegates would then have opportunities of conversing with members of the national Legislature, and other influential persons, from all parts of the Union, by which means, the views and operations of the friends of emancipation would become more generally known and fairly appreciated.

For any other information, we refer you to our delegates.

JOHN CHALMERS, *President.*

FROM THE VIRGINIA CONVENTION.

To the American Convention, &c. to be held at Philadelphia, on the first Tuesday in October next.

At the Virginia Convention, heldd at Goosecreek, on the 20th, 21st, and 22d of August, 1827, for the purpose of promoting the abolition of slavery; besides the transaction of other business, it was resolved, to send delegates to the American Convention; in compliance with which the following persons were appointed to attend, viz:—

Noble S. Braden,
Benjamin F. Taylor,
Robert Bond,
Edward Walker,
Elisha Fawcett.

JAMES HACKNEY, *President*

GEORGE SHARP, *Secretary*

From Western Pennsylvania.

Agreeably to a resolution of a former meeting, delegates from several Abolition and Manumission Societies met at Washington Pa. on the 5th of June, 1827.

On motion, *Resolved*, that the Rev. Charles Wheeler be appointed President, and John McCormick Secretary, of this meeting.

Resolved, That David Hilles, Charles Wheeler, and John Graham, be appointed delegates, from this Association, to attend the American Convention, at Philadelphia, in October next.

Extracted from the minutes of the aforesaid meeting.

CHARLES WHEELER, *President.*

John Mc Cormick, *Secretary.*

To the Twentieth biennial stated meeting of the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery and improving the condition of the African race, to be held in Philadelphia.

We the Committee, appointed by the General Association, composed of delegates from the different Abolition Societies in western Pennsylvania, in reporting our views on the important subject of Universal Emancipation, deem it proper to inform the Convention, that it is only between three and four years, since the subject began to claim the serious attention of our citizens, and the first Society was formed: and for near two years its movements were not extended much farther than to attend to individual cases, and the acquirement of information: but since that time, a more lively interest has manifested itself; and committees have been appointed to draw the attention of the public more generallly to the objects of our association. These Committees have attended meetings in divers places, and delivered lectures on the magnitude of the evil of slavery, not only in a moral and religious, but also in a political point of view, setting forth the practicability and advantages of Universal Emancipation, and showing that the objections advanced against it are imaginary, and not real.—By this means, the number of societies, in this and the adjacent counties, have increased to ten or twelve, several of which are large and in a prosperous situation, and more are forming. These move-

ments have had great influence on the public mind, by exciting, even among those who have not joined the societies, a lively interest in the cause.

We view the cause of emancipation as one, which above all other political considerations, is worthy the serious attention of the American people.—One which, owing to the deep and lasting interest this Union would derive from its accomplishment, deserves our hearty co-operation and support.

The inconsistency, impolicy, and wickedness of the slave system, is receiving, and will we trust eventually receive, that universal execration, which it so justly merits; seeing the different religious denominations are uniting their endeavors, to remove this foul stain from our national character, and to eradicate this gross inconsistency from the Christian name. The magnitude of the evil is becoming so great, that those who are blind, respecting the rights of others, must see; and those who are deaf, to the cries of the oppressed, will be aroused by a sense of their own danger.—And we hope that, under the divine blessing, the moral influence, which is extending over our highly favored country, will continue to spread, until this species of unjust and aggravated oppression shall cease to exist: for a general revolution in public sentiment has commenced, is progressing, and must eventually triumph.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

JESSE KENWORTHY.
JEHU LEWIS.

FROM THE SALEM ABOLITION AND COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

To the American Convention for promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and improving the condition of the African race, to meet in Philadelphia, on the 2nd day of October, 1827.

At a meeting of the Salem Abolition and Colonization Society of Columbiana county, Ohio, held the 8th of September, 1827—

A letter addressed to Benjamin Stanton, by Isaac Barton Corresponding Secretary of the American Convention, being laid before the society, containing a notice of the next session of the

Convention, with a request that this society be represented therein, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient that this society be represented in the next session of the American Convention for promoting the abolition of slavery and improving the condition of the African race.

Resolved, That David Scholfield be appointed a delegate, to represent this society, as aforesaid.

Extracted from the minutes, by order of the meeting.

BENJAMIN STANTON, *Secretary pro. tem.*

FROM THE COLUMBIANA ABOLITION SOCIETY.

New Lisbon, September 27th, 1827

MR. ISAAC BARTON:

Sir—The Acting Committee of the Columbiana Abolition Society were favored, through the kindness of Mr. Richardson, with a communication from you, containing a request that our society would send delegates to the next session of the American Convention, at Philadelphia. The committee, in consideration thereof, had a meeting; but from the near approach of the Convention, it was found impossible to have a meeting of the society called, and delegates appointed, seasonably to attend.

The committee, however, feel confident in saying, that our society will not, hereafter, be lacking in a due attention; and that though it cannot now, by its delegates, participate in the deliberations of that philanthropic body, still its feelings and best wishes will be with it, in every act which will in the least tend to meliorate the condition of the debased and despised slave.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.

ANSON L. BREWER,

Cor. Sec. Columbiana Abolition Society.